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STATINTL

## Military Beat

# Wright Well Fitted For New Position

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The appointment of Adm. Jer-  
ald Wright to a key national  
post comes as  
a surprise only  
in the nature of  
the job he has  
been asked to  
do.

Since his re-  
tirement last  
March, many  
high-placed ob-  
servers have  
predicted he  
would remain in  
the pastures briefly. There has  
never been any hint, from Wright  
or others, that he would choose  
to go into private industry.

This does not mean that job  
offers haven't come his way. It's  
just that by training, inclination  
and design Wright is a public  
service-type individual.

### DIPLOMACY REJECTED

There was speculation that  
Wright might get into diplomacy,  
perhaps as ambassador to a  
NATO nation. However, the ad-  
miral, while appreciative of such  
thoughts, rejected the idea main-  
ly on the basis of economics.

He has never been a man of  
great wealth, having devoted his  
entire life from the age of 16  
to the Navy. He has indicated  
an indifference to accumulating  
holdings. In response to the am-  
bassadorial talk, Wright would  
laugh and say: "Now where



Mansfield

hell would I get the money for  
that kind of job?"

When word of his appointment  
to an intelligence post hit Navy  
circles in the Pentagon Wednes-  
day, one longtime associate  
summed it up this way:

### TOP QUALIFICATIONS

"I don't know of anyone any-  
where in the world with more  
qualifications for this type of  
job. He probably has more world  
contacts at high level than any  
other officer."

It was an appraisal that found  
quick agreement among those  
who have best known the tall,  
quiet admiral over the years.

Wright's deep concern with  
international political and mili-  
tary problems for a long time  
is shown by the record. From  
1942 until his retirement last  
March he had a hand in joint  
and combined operations, and  
evaluating enemy strengths and  
weaknesses.

His introduction to this business  
came when Gen. Eisenhower was  
planning combined operations in  
North Africa and the Mediter-  
ranean. His career was capped  
by a six-year tour as NATO's  
Supreme Commander in the At-  
lantic, after he had served in  
other key Allied posts.

His habit of fast travel became  
legendary during those six years.  
Sometimes he was referred to as  
the "military's John Foster Dul-  
les," the peripatetic secretary of  
state.

### FAS VAST ENERGY

Wright was known for his im-  
mense energy and youthful  
vitality, despite his 61 years. His  
secret was his ability to shrug  
off fatigue with catnaps.

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When making long flights, punc-  
uated by frequent stops for of-  
ficial calls and inspections,  
Wright followed a simple routine.  
On boarding his plane, he would  
call for his writing pad and in  
minutes dash off personal notes  
to persons he had visited. The  
fact that few could decipher his  
unique scrawl is unimportant.

With this chore out of the way,  
he would drop his head back  
against the seat and within sec-  
onds would be fast asleep. In a  
matter of minutes he would come  
awake, fresh and seemingly  
rested.

His physical stamina was  
matched by his mental quickness.  
as many who tried to slip some-  
thing by him found out soon  
enough. His combination of en-  
ergy, experience and analytical  
talent will contribute greatly to  
CIA's Board of National Esti-  
mates in its critical work.

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